Research Notes: Roseanna Devine Laughlin (1854 - 1931)

Roseanna Devine Laughlin lived most of her life in the Midwest, though she was born in New Jersey in 1854. Her family left New Jersey while she was still young, and her childhood was shaped by the early death of her father and by life within an extended family household. From childhood forward, Roseanna appears consistently in the record, allowing her life to be traced across decades and places with little interruption.

As an adult, Roseanna lived most of her life in Iowa, marrying John Arthur Laughlin and raising a large family. She remained closely connected to her children throughout her life and appears repeatedly in census and other records within family households. After her husband's death, Roseanna did not disappear from the record but continued to live with or near her adult children, moving among their households in later years. She lived into her seventies and remained visible in records across multiple decades.

Roseanna's life can be traced from birth through old age with a high degree of continuity, but the family she was born into is only partially understood. Her parents are identified in the record, and research has yielded some structure around their lives, though important details remain unresolved. Roseanna's long and continuous presence in the record places her firmly within this family context, even as aspects of the preceding generation remain incomplete.

Speculative Narrative:

Intentionally left blank.

Time Line:

1 Sep 1854 - Birth at Rockaway, Morris, New Jersey[1]

28 Dec 1859 - Death of father Patrick Devine (1803 - 1859) at Monticello, Jones, Iowa.[2]

1860 - US Census at Hopkinton, Delaware, Iowa.[3]

John Devine, 52

Roseanna Devine, 49

John Devine, 17

Owen Devine, 14

William Devine, 11

Bridget Devine, 8

Rosina Devine, 6

9 Sep 1863 - Death of sister Bridget Devine (1853 - 1863) at Delhi, Delaware, Iowa.[4]

1870 - US Census at South Fork, Delaware, Iowa.[5]

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[1] "New Jersey Births and Christenings, 1660-1980", database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZQX-796: 18 January 2020), Rosanna Devine, 1854.

[2] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV26-76MS: 10 June 2020), Patrick Devine, 1859; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[3] 1860 US Census

[4] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV26-76M9: 10 June 2020), Bridget Devine, 1863; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[5] 1870 US Census

Rosa Devine, 58

Wm Devine

Rosa Devine, 15

Owen Farley, 24

6 Nov 1874 - Marriage to John Arthur Laughlin (1850 - 1914) at Delhi, Delaware, Iowa.[6]

1 Jun 1875 - Birth of son John Arthur Laughlin (1875 - 1923) South Fork, Delaware, Iowa.[7]

23 Nov 1875 - Death of mother Rosanna Sheridan (1811 - 1875), Hopkinton, Delaware, Iowa.[8]

16 Jan 1877 - Birth of daughter Anna Elizabeth Laughlin (1877 - 1956) at Manchester, Delaware, Iowa.[9]

1879 - Birth of daughter Rosella E Laughlin (1879 - 1918) at Delhi, Delaware, Iowa.[10]

1880 - US Census at Hopkinton, Delaware, Iowa.[11]

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[6] Iowa Marriages, 1809-1992", , *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XJP6-JY6: 13 January 2020), Rosa Devine in entry for Jno Laughlin, 1874.

[7] "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918", database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KZKG-6X3 : 28 June 2024), John Arthur Laughlin, 1917-1918.

[8] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKK-739S: 22 July 2020), Rose, 1875; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[9] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVR-BPFH: 24 February 2022), Anne Elizabeth Laughlin Barrett, ; Burial, Des Plaines, Cook, Illinois, United States of America, All Saints Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum; citing record ID 27776360, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[10] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:68C5-P9N7: Sat Mar 09 06:38:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Edward Kelley and Dan Kelley, 8 Sep 1922.

[11] "United States Census, 1880", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MD2H-994: Fri Mar 08 01:19:56 UTC 2024), Entry for John Laughlin and Rosa Laughlin, 1880.

John Laughlin - white, male, age 30, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Rosa Laughlin - white, male, age 25, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

John A Laughlin - white, male, age 4, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Annie Laughlin - white, male, age 3, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Rosa Laughlin - white, male, age 1, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

26 Jul 1882 - Birth of son William Laughlin (1882 - 1926) at Brush Creek, Fayette, Iowa.[12]

26 Jul 1882 - Birth of son Harry Laughlin (1882 - 1940) at Brush Creek, Fayette, Iowa.[13]

5 Dec 1885 - Birth of daughter Esther Susan Laughlin (1885 - 1957) at Arlington, Fayette, Iowa.[14]

1885 - Iowa State Census at Arlington, Fayette, Iowa.[15]

Rosa Laughlin, 30

John A Laughlin, 9

Anne E Laughlin, 8

Rosella Laughlin, 6

William F. Laughlin, 2

[12] "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VJP2-V9M: Sat Aug 31 06:25:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Laughlan and John Laughlin, 26 Jul 1882.

[13] "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VJP2-V9M: Sat Aug 31 06:25:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Laughlan and John Laughlin, 26 Jul 1882.

[14] Birth of daughter Esther Susan Laughlin

[15] 1885 - Iowa State Census

James H. Laughlin, 2

John Laughlin, 30

26 May 1889 - Death of half-brother Owen Farley (1844 - 1889) at Vail, Crawford, Iowa.[16]

27 Jun 1890 - Birth of daughter Mary Helen Laughlin (1890 - 1965) at Lyons, Marshalltown, Iowa.[17]

Dec 1884 - Birth of son Leo Laughlin (1894 - 1909) at Wausau, Marathon, Wisconsin.[18]

22 Sep 1900 - Birth of daughter Marguerite Ethel Laughlin (1900 - 1972) at Wausau, Marathon, Wisconsin.[19]

Notes on Children - Roseanna Devine Laughlin's obituary states that she was the mother of eleven children, of whom four were living at the time of her death. At present, records have been identified for nine children. The identities of the remaining two children may represent children who died in infancy or early childhood.

1900 - US Census at Wausau, Marathon, Wisconsin.[20]

John Laughlin - head of household, white, male, born x, age 45, married x years, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Rosa Laughlin - wife, white, female, born x, age 45, married x years, born New Jersey, parents born Ireland

Rose Laughlin - daughter, white, female, age 21, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

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[16] Death of half-brother Owen Farley

[17] Birth of daughter Mary Helen Laughlin

[18] Birth of son Leo Laughlin

[19] Birth of daughter Marguerite Ethel Laughlin

[20] 1900 - US Census

Henry Laughlin - son, white, male, age 17, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Willie Laughlin - son, white, male, age 17, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

Esther Laughlin - daughter, white, female, age 14, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

Mary Laughlin - daughter, white, female, age 10, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

Leo Laughlin - son, white, male, age 5, born Wisconsin, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

1905 - Iowa State Census at Marshalltown, Marshall, Iowa. [21]

Jno. Laughlin

Rose Laughlin

Mary Laughlin

Leo Laughlin

Margarite Laughlin

16 Feb 1909 - Death of son Leo Laughlin
at Roland, Pulaski, Arkansas. [22]

Newspaper Accounts of Leo Laughlin's Death -

These articles tell the story:

February 16, 1909

[21] 1905 - Iowa State Census

[22] Death of son Leo Laughlin

"Injured Lad Dies

Young Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Laughlin, who was Injured by Falling Under Train, Dies at Roland, Arkansas

A telegram received in this city says that Leo Laughlin, aged 14, son of Division Road master John Laughlin of the Iowa Central, who was injured by falling under a train at Roland, Arkansas, Saturday, died of his injuries. No further details of the accident were contained in the message other than in the first one, which brought the news of the accident to this city. It is presumed that Mr. Laughlin, who went to Roland upon receipt of the word telling of his son's injury, will bring the body to this city with him."

February 18, 1909

"The body of Leo Laughlin, who died at Little Rock, Arkansas, failed to reach the city Wednesday evening as expected and did not arrive until this afternoon. The funeral, which had been set for this morning, was at St. Mary's church."

February 19, 1909

The funeral of Leo Laughlin was largely attended this morning at 9 o'clock from St. Mary's church, Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick officiating. Among the flowers was a pretty piece from the Yard men of the Iowa Central, of which John Laughlin, the lad's father, is division road master. The pallbearers were Glen Crosby, Venatius McKnight, Willie Herbert, Willie Kurtz, James McManus, and Brasel Freeman. Interment was in Riverside.

February 24, 1909

Mr. William M. Devine, of El Reno, Okla., who came here to attend the funeral of his nephew, Master Leo Laughlin, left for his home Tuesday. Patrick Devine of Ryan, who was also here to attend the funeral, left for his home Tuesday afternoon.

1910 - US Census at Marshalltown, Marshall, Iowa.[23]

[23] 1910 - US Census

John Laughlin - head of household, male, white, age 55, married, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

Rose A Laughlin - wife, female, white, age 53, married, born New Jersey, parents born Ireland

William F Laughlin - son, male, white, age 26, single, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

Mary A Laughlin - daughter, female, white, age 19, single, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

Marguerite E Laughlin, 9 - daughter, female, white, age 9, single, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

20 Apr 1914 - Death of husband John Arthur Laughlin (1850 - 1914) at Hillsboro, Traill, North Dakota.[24]

Following her husband's death, Roseanna appears in successive census records within the households of her adult children, reflecting ongoing family connections rather than independent residence.

1915 - Iowa State Census at Belle Plaine, Benton, Iowa. [25]

Mrs. Rose Laughlin, 60

9 Mar 1916 - Death of brother William Devine (1849 - 1916) at El Reno, Canadian, Oklahoma.[26]

William Devine's obituary is included here because it provides context for the family Roseanna grew up in and contains the earliest known reference to a claimed relationship with General Philip Sheridan.

[24] Death of husband John Arthur Laughlin

[25] 1915 - Iowa State Census

[26] "Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KF3K-9LY: Sat Jul 06 00:20:47 UTC 2024), Entry for William Frances Laughlin and John Laughlin, 10 May 1926.

"March 16, 1916
The El Reno American

Another Citizen Gone
William Devine Answered Final Summons After Long Illness

The last sad obsequies were performed over the remains of the late William Devine, Monday morning, at the Catholic church, when the requiem high mass was said by Rev. Father Stevens, who was assisted by Revs. Schaffer and Kicheisen. The services were said in such a manner as to touch the finer sensibilities of the entire audience. Rev. Father Sevens extolled the departed admirable and sterling traits of character.

There were many beautiful floral offerings that gave mute admiration for the high regard with which he was held by his business associates and friends for the splendid traits of character he possessed and the service he rendered while living. The Woodmen of the World attended the funeral in a body.

William Devine had been ill for several months, and his ailment finally developed into pulmonary trouble. He was born September 12, 1849, in Rockaway, New Jersey, and died last Thursday, March 9.

Mr. Devine was the son of Patrick and Rosanna Sheridan Devine, she being an aunt of "Phil" Sheridan, who won distinction during the Civil War for his daring exploits on the battlefield.

Mr. Devine's parents moved to Iowa when he was a young boy and were among the pioneers of 1853. In 1881, Mr. Devine moved to Vail, Iowa, and embarked on the retail shoe business. Fourteen years later, he purchased another store and moved to Dennison, Iowa, where he lived until 1900, when he came to El Reno in July of that year.

On February 25, 1884, Mr. Devine was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Harkin at Vail, Iowa, who survives him together with four children, Mrs. Frank Creegan of Holdenville, William A., Claude, and J. Justine Devine, and stepson James M. Harkin, all of El Reno. A sister, Rose Laughlin, resides in Belle Plaine, Iowa, and a cousin, P.H. Devine, resides in Ryan, Iowa.

The deceased was a member of the El Reno City Council from April 1, 1908, to April 1, 1910, and rendered valuable service to the city in that capacity.

Mr. Devine was genial and bore his long illness with the utmost fortitude. His friends were legion; wherever sickness or death entered, he was always

among the first to offer relief and consolation to the sufferers. His family loses a loving husband and father in his passing, and the community loses a citizen of worth and integrity."

1916 -Death of daughter Rosella E Laughlin (1879 - 1916) at Adair, Iowa.[27]

1920 - US Census at Adair, Adair, Iowa.[28]

Edward W Kelley—head, owns home, male, white, age 48, widower, can read, can write, born?, parent born?

Jean E Kelley - daughter, female, white, age 10, single, born Iowa, father born?, mother born Iowa

Willie Kelley - son, male, white, age 10, single, born Iowa, father born?, mother born Iowa

John Kelley - son, male, white, age 10, single, born Iowa, father born?, mother born Iowa

Rose Laughlin, mother in law, female, white, age 65, born New Jersey, parents born in Ireland

22 Dec 1923 - Death of her son John Arthur Laughlin (1875 - 1923) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois. [29]

10 May 1926 - Death of her son William Francis Laughlin (1882 - 1926) at Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.[30]

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[27] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPK7-C3PG: Fri Mar 08 15:05:06 UTC 2024), Entry for Rose E Kelly and John Laughlin, 2 October 1918.

[28] 1920 - US Census

[29] Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N34Q-S7B: Fri Mar 08 17:32:38 UTC 2024), Entry for John Arthur Laughlin and John Laughlin, 22 December 1923.

[30] "Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KF3K-9LY : Sat Jul 06 00:20:47 UTC 2024), Entry for William Frances Laughlin and John Laughlin, 10 May 1926.

1930 - US Census at Eldorado, Benton, Iowa.[31]

William D Wheeler - head, owns home, worth x, has radio, male, white, age 49, married, first at age x, born Iowa, parents born ?

Esther S Wheeler - wife, female, white, age 41, married, born Iowa, father born Iowa, mother born New Jersey

William C Wheeler - son, male, age 11, single, born Iowa, parents born Iowa

Bettie Rose Wheeler - daughter, female, age 10, single, born Iowa, parents born Iowa

David A Wheeler - son, male, age 2, single, born Iowa, parents born Iowa

Rose Laughlin, 75 - mother-in-law, female, age 75, widowed, born New Jersey, parents born Ireland

17 Jan 1931- Death at Newhall, Benton, Iowa.[32]

17 Jan 1931 - Obituary:

Mrs. Rose Laughlin, 76, Is Dead At Newhall
Special to The Gazette-Republic
NEWHALL, Jan. 17.

Mrs. Rose Laughlin, age 76, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. D. Wheeler, today at 1 a.m. For the last three months, she had been in poor health, and her condition became serious about a week ago.

Mrs. Laughlin was the mother of eleven children. The four surviving are Mrs. S.A. Barrett, Chicago; Mrs. W. D. Wheeler, Newhall; Mrs. R. H. King, Chicago, and Mrs. A. J. Wareham, Red Oak.

Mrs. Laughlin had resided in Benton County for the last 30 years. For the last few years, she had made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Wheeler.

[31] "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XMNH-Z4V: Sun Mar 10 17:43:38 UTC 2024), Entry for William D Wheeler and Esther S Wheeler, 1930.

[32] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:68CT-WDWY: Sun Mar 10 09:13:26 UTC 2024), Entry for Rose Anna Laughlin and John Devine, 17 Jan 1931.

She was married Nov 9, 1874, at Delhi to John Laughlin, who died in Belle Plaine seventeen years ago. Funeral services will be held at St. Paul's Catholic church, Newhall. Monday at 10 am. Burial will be at Belle Plaine.

Jan 1931 - Burial at Oak Hill Cemetery at Belle Plaine, Benton, Iowa.[33]

Appendix: Misc. Research Notes

My response to Pam was that I wanted her to look at the DNA. It results in an excellent report without any conclusions. Rose Sheridan is still a mystery.

"Hi Pam,

I would like you to spend time looking at my Devine DNA matches. Later, I will commission a descendant report.

I manage several family members' DNA tests, but the best person to look at is my cousin Janet Boddicker.

Janet has a ton of matches, but we are only related through John Arthur Laughlin and Rose Devine (which are more manageable, with fewer matches there). I have created some clusters and named them after the known ancestor where possible. Otherwise, I give them a name that makes sense to me now. Since I managed Janet's test, I have built her tree to reflect our common branches.

Here is a list of clusters I created on Janet's DNA test. Clarke of Cavan, Devine, Laughlin Devine, McElmeel, or McQuillan Clusters could relate to this question.

Frankly, please pass me any clues you discover while looking into these clusters. I would be happy to have a report of the findings. I have not found the MRCA on these tests, but I feel the answers are there.

Thanks, Mary Beth"

[33] Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK3-868Q: 20 May 2020), Rose Devine Laughlin, 1931; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

C. I have a 1901 birth document from Iowa containing the names John Devine and Anna K. Devine. I do not know if or how these people fit in my tree.

D. I have corresponded with J. Larry DeVine several times via email. He is the adopted son of Justine DeVine. He was a newspaper art critic and always interested in whatever I found out about the DeVines. Larry doesn't know why his last name was spelled DeVine. That spelling didn't show up until Larry.

"Hi Larry, A few years back, a woman contacted me via email and said she was researching Bud Creegan's crew and asked me what I knew. As you know, I didn't know much, but she sent me the following, and I made sure it was added to Bud's memorial on Find a Grave. I'm not sure if you've seen this.

Mary Beth"

"Mary Beth, My lord, will the surprises never end?! I have a photo of Bud Creegan stuck in my bedroom mirror frame. If it would be helpful, I could send you a copy. It shows Bud in uniform, his dad, Frank, and his mom, Nell. Handwriting on the back, either Helen's or Rose Mary's, they wrote just like their mother, says "1943?" The Bourbon County, Kansas, mentioned in the paragraph about NARA records, includes Fort Scott, which happens to be the county seat.

Larry"

" Larry, Yes, I would love a picture of Bud. Isn't it fascinating that he is mentioned in two books by Ian McLachlan and then also in season 6, episode 8 of the documentary "Time Team Reedham Marshes" I haven't had the time yet to read the book or look at the documentary on YouTube.

I love the pictures you sent! As you know, I've worked on this family and learned the names. So, seeing their sweet faces makes such a difference. Also, Bud has a beautiful gravestone. So close to landing after the dangers of bombing and Germany, and to die in an accident, so sad. I am glad to have so many details from Elizabeth Pyle and had her permission to add her description to the Findagrave website. What an afternoon. Like you said, will the surprises never end? Mary Beth"

Note: Larry then sent me his pictures of his Devine relatives.

E. Rebecca Christensen, a very talented genealogist from Kansas, did some Devine research for me. This is an email exchange about a DNA article in the NGQ by famous genealogist Donn Devine. See Donn Devine, "Sorting Relationships among Families with the Same Surname: An Irish-American DNA Study," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 93 (December 2005): 283-293

"Hi Rebecca,
I am sending you a copy of this 2005 article from NGSQ on Devine DNA, even though it doesn't refer to my Laughlin family. As you know, my ancestor John Laughlin married Rosanna Devine, daughter of Patrick Devine and Rosanna Sheridan. Perhaps the Laughlins and Devines showed up in the same townland in Ireland? I'm not trying to send you on a wild goose chase or expand the Laughlin research project you are working on. This is just some background information.

Also, much more must be known now since relatively few markers were tested for this 2005 article.

I'm passing it on to see if this write-up sheds any light on Laughlin records you find while researching.

Mary Beth"

"Mary Beth,
In looking at the DNA results page for the Devine project, most of the groupings are not very helpful in a shorter-term genealogical time period. The groupings are too broad to be very useful for the most part.

For a surname project, it would be better if the participants in a group had a narrow range of differences. (There is too much color in most of the groups.) For example, Cluster 3a participants are related to each other. Still, in Cluster 3b, participants 110070 and 76587 (lines 57 & 58) aren't closely related to each other - they have four differences from each other in the first 37 markers. Cluster 2 is a population group, not a family group, and the results are all over the place.

So, I'm not sure how helpful the surname DNA project will be unless you can identify a participant for your line of Devines, so it may be worthwhile to look at it closer. Autosomal DNA testing may be helpful as you find participants more closely related to you.

Rebecca”

F. I saw a Peter Sheridan in a tree, and I wrote to inquire if he was the same as the witness named in Rose Sheridan Farley’s marriage to Patrick Devine. I checked to see if [michaelluraschi52] was a DNA match to any of the tests I managed, but he was not. Furthermore, the DNA matches for Rose Sheridan possibly put her in County Cavan.

“Hi, Mary Beth;

I'm sorry for being so delayed in responding. I’m just getting back into Ancestry. Michael [michaelluraschi52] took the DNA test with generalized results.

I reviewed your previous information, and there may be a connection; Rose and our Patrick may be brother/sister. His first wife, Margaret's maiden name was Madden. Does that match the information you have? As mentioned, Westport was obtained from his gravestone and his daughter Rose's records. With his daughter's name being Rose and your Rose, it may turn out to be a name used in previous generations.

I looked into Griffith's Valuation and found it helpful; it listed a Patrick Sheridan in the Westport area. I hope all is well. Betty”

I am currently researching Rose Devine's parents using U.S. records and DNA matches. Based on DNA evidence, my working theory is that Rose Sheridan, Rose Devine's mother, was from County Cavan, Ireland, about 7 kilometers from the townland where General Philip Sheridan's family lived. Records from this time are sparse, but a newspaper obituary for Rose’s son, William Devine, states that his mother was “the aunt of General Philip Sheridan.” So far, no Sheridan DNA matches have been identified on Ancestry.com, but further DNA analysis is needed.

Additionally, DNA evidence suggests that Rose Devine's father, Patrick, was from County Kildare. How Rose’s parents met remains unknown.

Additionally, locate any missing documents highlighted in red on the research timeline.